UNCLE SAM'S JACKIES IN THE ANTIPODES


A THERMAL BATH AT ROTORUA
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MAORI CHIEF

THE sea seasoned jack tars of the American fleet of warships will be able, if they so desire, to spend the remainder of their lives after reaching home in describing the scenes, happenings and their adventures in the strange latitudes below the equator, where glows the glittering Southern Cross. After visiting Samoa and New Zealand they are now in the none the less picturesque Australian ports, and we can readily imagine what hustle and bustle occurs in some peaceful contented harbor when more than a dozen American warships, manned by upward of twelve or thirteen thousand American jackies, float proudly in on the flood tide, each one of the aforesaid jackies sniffing the air nervously and asking where may be found the newest kinds and the largest varieties of simon pure excitement.

From Auckland, New Zealand the fleet took the regular steamship course of 1,300 miles to Sydney, and probably all looked forward to viewing the magnificent harbor, famous the world around. The travelers of wide experience state that Sydney harbor is worth a transoceanic voyage to see. Sydney, in the province of New South Wales, filling the southeasterly corner of Australia, is the second largest city on the "island continent." Few cities when approached from the sea strike visitors favorably, for invariably the unornamental commercial buildings cluster around the water's edge and the wharfs are unsightly. But at Sydney the aim has been to make almost the entire water front like a park. On one side the country is wild, green with uncultivated foliage, and mighty rocks here and there creep forth. The opposite side of the harbor is made up of private establishments, handsome houses, well kept lawns and extensive gardens. The entrance to the harbor lies between two high, sharply rising cliffs, called the North and South Heads, the distance across the channel being about a mile. The entire harbor has over 200 miles of coast line, owing to the numerous deep indentations, resembling on a larger scale the splendid harbor of Halifax, N. S.

The waters of Sydney look so inviting that the first thought of the visitor is that he must take a dip from one of the inviting sandy beaches. But to his chagrin he learns that to bathe in those waters is to write his own death warrant. The man eating sharks are so numerous that even people who fall overboard from vessels can rarely be rescued in time to escape these voracious monsters. Shark fishing, however, is a novel form of sport that our sailors undoubtedly find very full of thrills. Some of them will surely be able to tell of aiding in hauling out of the deep sharks nine or ten feet long.

From almost any point on the coast trips can be made into the interior, into the edges of the "Australian bush," to the tremendous sheep ranches and into the haunts of the kangaroo and the muscular native boomerang throwers. The excessive heat, however, will probably prevent excursions into the interior from being overextensive. If the officers on board the ships of the fleet are not too watchful, no doubt more than one jackie will attempt to smuggle on board and bring home one of the snappy dingoes, the native Australian dogs, reddish yellow animals that look harmless, but which have worked great havoc among the sheep.

An interesting Australian spectacle that will certainly appeal to the manly handlers of guns and ropes on Uncle Sam's ships is a woodchopping or tree felling contest. This muscle straining form of sport was introduced into Australia from the island of Tasmania, south of Australia, separated from the coast of the province of Victoria by the Bass strait.

The manner of the contest is as follows: Huge pillars of wood of equal size, six feet and several inches in circumference, are implanted in the ground, and a contestant is placed before each column. At a given signal, by pistol shot, each begins to chop at the pillar, and the man who first cuts one in two wins the contest. Men from all over Australia participate in these contests, and almost every locality has a champion. Participants from Tasmania and New Zealand also frequently compete, and thousands of dollars' worth of prizes are awarded at championship events, which are sometimes attended by over 10,000 people. The betting on these woodchopping competitions often reaches enormous proportions, so confident are the followers of the local heroes of the ax.

Several of the Australian coast cities have elaborate botanical gardens where semi-tropical plants of rare descriptions are grown, and in the zoological gardens curious animals from Australia and the islands of the south seas are exhibited. As for collections of snakes, Australia excels in this branch of amusement providing. The island continent in many localities is practically overrun with snakes and lizards of every description, and after some of the experiences they are certain to have there more of our sailors in the navy will hasten to sign the pledge than ever known before.

A trip to an Australian sheep ranch is highly interesting and can be made by a short railroad trip from Melbourne or Sydney or other coast cities. On one of these sheep ranches a thousand acres doesn't really mean very much. A thousand sheep are a pretty small item to a man who owns a quarter or a half million sheep. There are some Australian ranchers who own a million sheep, and some of the individual prize sheep of high breeding are worth from $3,000 to $5,000 a head. The big trees will also prove interesting, for Australia is essentially a land of big things. Outside of Melbourne are trees 400 feet high and at a height of 250 feet from the ground are six feet in diameter—that is, eighteen feet around. Some of the Australian lilies grow to a height of a three story house. A land of big things, in the mines at Ballarat have been found gold nuggets as big as a man's head.

Of course much of the time of the sailors is taken up with the entertainments provided for them by the local authorities where they stop, but in Australia as in New Zealand they find time to get acquainted with the wonders of the country outside of the cities. The most interesting exhibit of Australian animals is probably that at Melbourne. There may be seen specimens of the very rare red and white kangaroos as well as the ordinary types. They are as gentle as kittens when in captivity. Also there are the kangaroo, opossums and the Tasmanian devils. These opossums look like large balls of fur, and their tails, long and flat, are so limp that when the wind is strong they are blown about in every direction. The Tasmanian devil is stated to have seven rows of teeth, and many of these queer creatures are captured in the hot sands of the deserts. The platypus and emus are other peculiar Australian animals.

But in spite of the many sights to be seen in the so called "never, never land" of Australia the rollicking boys in blue are finding it difficult to see more strange things than came to their notice in New Zealand. New Zealand is made up of two immense islands and numerous small ones. The two large islands are called the North and South islands. Auckland is on the North island, and there the jackies saw some of the most magnificent as well as the most beautiful scenery in the world. New Zealand is a combination of Switzerland's mountains, Italy's lakes, Scotland's highlands and Norway's fiords. Its native tribes of daring, agile Maoris are a never failing source of interest to travelers from Anglo-Saxon lands. The Maori men are noted for their activity and progressiveness, the Maori women for their barbaric beauty.

These natives have been provided by nature with natural hot mineral and mud baths that would be worth fortunes if within easy reach of the afflicted millionaires of Europe and America. These baths are formed by hot or thermal springs. The water is run off into wood lined holes dug in the ground, and these crude swimming tanks or bathtubs are used freely by the natives, who are thus preserved in a remarkably healthy condition. Like Australia, New Zealand is a great sheep raising country, and in Auckland are exhibited specimens of a peculiar kind of parrot, called the kea, which attacks sheep and tears out the fat over their kidneys, eating this and leaving the animals to die lingering deaths. No one has yet been able to account for the strange practice of these birds. They will not eat any other part of the sheep but the particular fat stated. Another unusual New Zealand inhabitant is the kiwi, or apertyx, a bird that is both tailless and wingless.

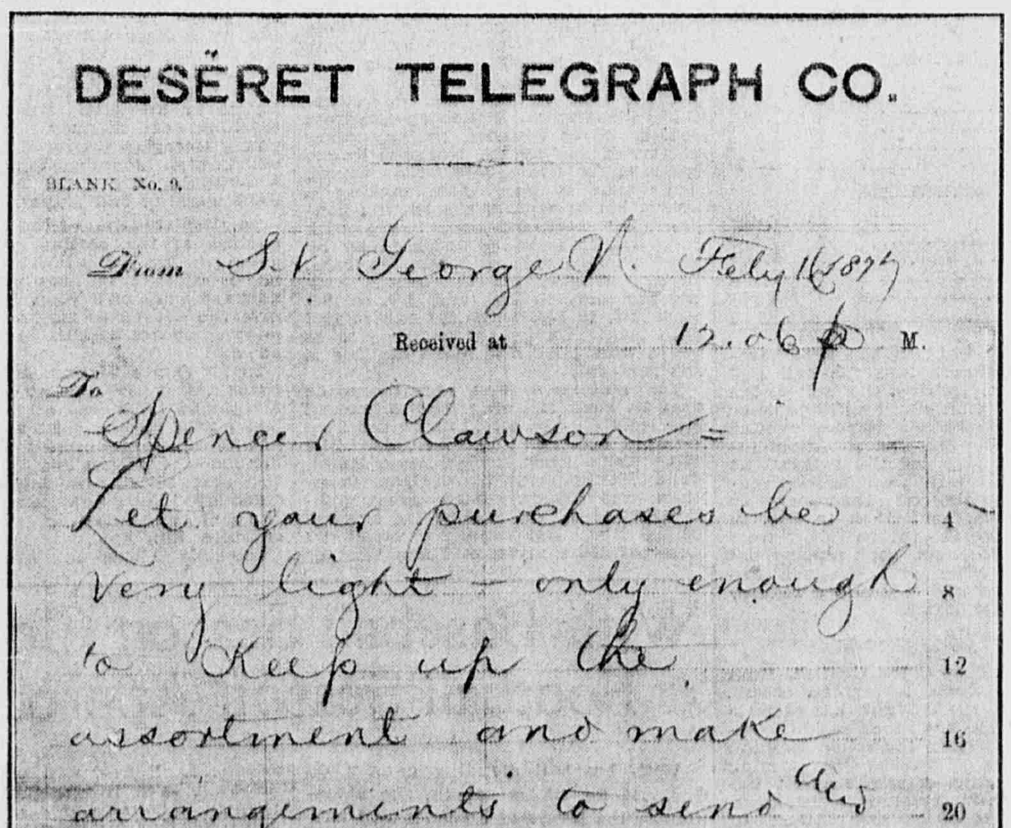
The sailors will be able to turn away with disdain from folks who talk about geysers—those, for instance, in the Yellowstone National park. Some of New Zealand's geysers spout almost half a mile high. In the hot water pools around the geysers the Maoris do their laundry work—that is, those of them who wear more than a girdle do laundry work. The best trout fishing in the world is had in New Zealand, and when the fish are caught they can be cooked in the hot water in the thermal springs or in the pools around the geysers. The Maori natives have "all modern improvements." They have "running hot and cold water" without paying for it.

The Maori natives live in large numbers around Rotorua, the center of the geyser and boiling spring district, and there for the entertainment of their visitors they perform the strange native dances. They have joy dances, war dances and grief dances. They term their principal dances the poi, the haki and the tangi.

Near Rotorua is the famous volcano of Tarawera, where in 1886 over a hundred natives lost their lives in an eruption. Near the volcano is the muttering geyser of Waimangu, the largest geyser in the world. The spout through which it shoots water, mud and redhot stones is over 400 feet long and 250 feet wide.

A native boar hunt is one of the sights for visitors to see, as these ferocious animals are very numerous in New Zealand.

WALTON WILLIAMS.


DESERET TELEGRAPH CO.

BLANK No. 9.

From St George U Feby 11 1877

Received at 12.06 P M.

To Spencer Clawson =

Let your purchases be very light — only enough to keep up the assortment and make arrangements to send and obtain goods in such quantities and kinds as we may want from month to month and of the best quality =

Brigham Young
President
Z. C. M. I.

14 collect 380

RELIC OF THIRTY-ONE YEARS AGO.

Telegraphic Instructions from President Brigham Young to Spencer Clawson, Then Buyer for Z. C. M. I.

Any business man wishing to send the most practical advice to a buyer for his firm, might easily alter the date of the above dispatch, and sign his own name to it, assured that it would carry to the agent an order, the filling of which would mean conservative, safe business progress.

This particular telegram was sent not in the year 1908, when short time sales a small stock, and quick turning over of money, are the business lessons of a recent panic, but in 1877, thirty-one years ago, when Utah was just emerging into definite form as a commonwealth and the hardest of frontier life was disappearing.

Brigham Young, who addressed it to Spencer Clawson, was at that time in St. George, spending the winter. Mr. Clawson, a buyer for Z. C. M. I., was about to depart for the east on a semi-annual buying trip, and this telegram was his final instructions. Carried out to the letter, its principles became the business policy of Z. C. M. I. in the years when an overloading of stock meant much more difficulty than at present to weathering an inactive season.

Brigham Young always urged the conservation of resources. He urged his brethren who had fields, larger than they could harvest, to call in the neighbors and let them harvest the grain rather than let it go to waste. He despised waste equally of time or money, or resources. One of the most interesting documents of his period is the order issued to the Echo canyon command, who, fifty years ago, were wintering in Weber, watching the Johnston army on the other side of the Wasatch mountains. It is issued over the name of Daniel H. Wells, commander of the forces, and is full of the little economies which marked the spirit of leadership in the period. "Have the men employed always at useful work," was one of the matters mentioned, and for the proper manner of graining and pasturing horses, of opening trails and of sending information, were others, taken up with just as much attention to details. Stories told of Heber C. Kimball and his plan of having an applicant for food pile up rocks in one corner only to remove them to another instead of giving him "something for nothing," is a similar example of principles founded deep in the economic truths, now being more generally preached than they were while serving as the working basis of early progress in Utah.